FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1804.

#### Some Pertinent Questions to Important Public Functionaries.

Go Meurs, Alexander E. Orr, John Claffin, Wil-

Ham Steinway, John H. Startn, and Seth Low. GESTLEMEN: You were chosen from the body of this community, by a specially enacted law of this State, to assume the charge of a great public measure, that of rapid transit for this city, superseding, for that purpose, officials chosen by the people to represent them in their municipal affairs; and, whatever may have been your position as citizens, it was, underlably, an act conferring supereminent distinction upon you. But the high bonor carried with it high responsibility. Are you acting up to that re-sponsibility? We have been waiting, with a feeling of expectancy, not unmixed with enxiety, to read your message to your fellow citizens upon the plan of transit, which you have adopted, fully and fairly presenting the issues which your action involves, that they may be able to vote advisedly, guided by trustworthy authority, upon the question whether the city and its taxpayers should assume the burden of responsibility which it will im-pose upon them. It is urgent that you should furnish such a message, in view of the extensively practised deception by which the scheme is now commended.

Your communication should not be delayed for a single day longer. The people should have an opportunity for reflection before deciding an issue thus involving their interests in the gravest degree; and they should, at a timely period, have the actual facts before them for an adequate consideration, and for correction of the misrepresentations with which the press is flooded. If the duty had devolved on our city authorities. who have been dishonored by setting them aside as unworthy to be trusted with the execution of this important work, so conspicuously transferred to you, the Mayor, as the chief executive officer of the city, as in duty bound, in all like cases, would have long since presented the subject to the Common Council with the proper consideration of the city's finances bearing upon it. The elected officials of the city Government are not allowed by law to assume an austere official reserve upon matters of public concern. Nor should you fold your arms with Czar-like indifference to the people in this matter, with the apparent haughty expectation that they are to adopt your conclusions with blind submission, as from a commanding and unquestionable authority.

You read daily, for you cannot fail to read them, the misleading statements as to the results of your official acts which infest the dally press; and you give no sign of dissent. Do you not thus virtually allow erroneous and deceptive representations to be accepted as the truth? You are supposed to represent as well the Chamber of Commerce of this city, for you were practically appointed on its nomination; but even if that were a body superior to all other congregations of commercial men, of any time or in any country, that charter does not carry with it any such exaltation of superiority in treating this matter as to absolve you from a manifest duty, or justify an utter disregard of even commercial usage and the common rules of financial dealing. If you, gentlemen, were charged by the Chamber of Commerce, or otherwise, with the business of organizing a novel scheme, requiring the use of the capital or credit of a body of private corporators involving a few hundred thousand dollars, would you not, by every rule of mercantile requirement, be obliged to issue a prospectus setting forth the grounds upon which such support was asked, and defining the and the cost of necessaries, in everything taken for public use without just compeneffect of the measure upon the corporators? in fact, into which taxation eats its way? sation." That failure of compensation Secause you are dealing with the interests of two millions of people and the pecuniary rights of so great a body as the taxpayers of this county to the extent of fifty millions of dollars or more, your official obligations are not thereby scattered into nothingness. It is rumored that some of the members of your Hoard have informally decided to issue a statement next week. If this is true, we hope it will be made the formal action of your whole body. But why this postponement until so near the day of voting ? You have been in office five months.

A day or two ago the New York Herald, in a leading article, doubtless inspired from the same sources as those now so uniformly found in the journalistic treatment of this question, made it known to its readers that no financial burden whatever would be laid on the people" in connection with your scheme; that it was to be achieved without any practical responsibility or even risk to taxpayers. This statement entirely ignored the real merits of the question, and is not of a character that would find its place naming your successors, during the in the columns of that influential journal if Mr. BENNETT were personally in charge; for his keen capacity to comprehend the full significance of this pregnant scheme, and his rigid integrity in all things, would prevent any such partisan and inadequate presentation of so grave a matter. Let us briefly consider the measure and some of its inevitable effects, as well as some of its possible

Let us ask you, can there be any doubt that the proposal is that you shall give a contract to construct an underground railroad, which you have approved by a unanimous vote, to a contractor or corporation to be chosen at your supreme will, who need not be the lowest bidder for the work, at the expense of the city, from the product of bonds to be issued by it, as you shall direct, to the extent of fifty millions of dollars, the amount realized on the bonds to be paid out of the city treasury on your sole vouchers? When the road is thus constructed, does not the contractor acquire the right through you to operate the railroad for the period of thirty-five or fifty years, as you shall decide, for his own benefit, paying to the city only a rental to cover the interest on the bonds and i portion of the profits, which may not exceed one per cent. Is it not true that the fifty millions limitation may be exceeded, with the consent of the Legislature, if the work should require a larger expenditure, provided the people shall now approve of the measure by voting "for municipal construction"! Are you not, in truth, an independent superimposed government, with despatia powers, within the Government of the people, and controlling it for your purposes? Are not the follow ing propositions true and accurate state ments of the questions involved in your

authority and your action? 1. The State Constitution sets a limit to the

per cent, of the assessed value of its real estate. This assessed value, according to the testimony of the very journals, that are such blind and blinding partisans of your scheme, has been unduly raised for a series of years in order to provide a low rate of taxation. At this time, with the claimed excessive valuations, the extreme limit to which the city can go in issuing bonds or

borrowing money is less than \$58,000,000, II. The city is to issue bonds and lend its credit to within eight millions of its utmost capacity, for this new system, never before undertaken by this or any other city on this continent, and which has failed to pay wherever tried abroad, at the sacrifice of all other important measures involving large outlays, such as the acquisition of dock property and the general improvement of our dock facilities to meet commercial requirements and due development, the improvement of our great parks beyond the Harlem, and our smaller parks this side, providing school grounds, and many other well known essential municipal needs. What newspaper supporting the scheme has presented these consequences

to its readers? III. It is said that the city is not to pay either principal or interest, but both are to be paid from the rentals derived from the successful operation of the railroad. But it is said, too, that the reason the city is called upon to use its credit in the issue of bonds is that, with existing means of rapid transit. the scheme will not be a sufficiently paying one in competition to enlist private capital. This proposition would seem, therefore, necessarily and logically, to prove that the project, from its practical operation, will not meet the responsibility incurred.

IV. The principal of the bonds is to be paid from the general sinking fund of the city, not from a special sinking fund of the rentals, so that if the rentals fail, the taxpayers will have to pay the entire amount from taxation; and that requirement will come soon if the project does not pay its way, as any large part of the total issue of bonds could not be collected in any one year by tax, under the constitutional limitation. The taxation would require to be spread over a series of years in large amounts. It is claimed that the interest, too. is to be paid from the rentals, and in this there is a deep absurdity somewhere. The building of the railroad, it is said, will require four or five years, but the heavier part of the work, and the greater expenditure will probably be in the two first years. requiring thirty to forty millions, while the succeeding period will be devoted more to finishing than to substantial tunnelling. The bonds are to be issued as required to pay for the work, and the entire proceeds will have been expended when the work is finished. Where will the interest on the bonds come from before the railroad is in operation and begins to receive earnings !

V. Again, it is said, that the great advantage of the scheme is that the bonds being issued by the city can be floated at a lesser rate of interest than if a private corporation were to issue them; and yet the city is to have no responsibility for the payment of the interest, because it is to be paid wholly from the rentals. Where does the advantage of the city's responsibility come in? If the bondholders are to look entirely to the profits of the scheme for their interest who will take the risk? The scheme, you admit, cannot succeed in private hands, or have a possible chance of being undertaken by private capital, because it is not deemed to be a possible paying project. Is it probable, therefore, that the bonds can be floated if the interest has no other source of payment than the rentals? Allow us to ask here, is it contemplated, if the people vote for the scheme, to apply to the Legislature, next winter, to make the city, through its taxpayers, responsible as guarantors for the interest on the bonds, adding a responsibility which may, very soon, amount to of Appraisal file their oath of office, paying nearly two millions of dollars of addition to the annual taxation, a burden which would be felt by our people in their incomes, rents, | tution that "private property shall not be

VI. If your underground scheme fails, the fifty millions or more will be utterly lost to the taxpayers without redress, for the anbterranean excavation will be wholly unavailable for any practical purpose.

VII. In conclusion, on this branch of the subject, is not the effect of the people voting | folding their arms with high dignity, have "against municipal construction" simply that you must dispose of the right to construct and operate the proposed railroad, at public auction, to the highest hidder ?

Now, gentlemen, in common fairness, why do you not elucidate these questions by a message to the people which will effectually do away with misrepresentations? We cannot believe that you desire to have these issues decided by the people without a full. fair, and responsible understanding as to how, and how far, they are to be affected. The powers conferred on you are very great; your term of office, as the law has been arranged for you, practically keeps you In office, that is, those of you named in the law with the privilege of period of the grant, which is to be for thirtyfive or fifty years, with a provision for covenants of renewal for undefined terms. You have authority under the law to incur expenses for lawyers, engineers, and assistants without restriction; and their personal salaries, as well as your own, are provided for by iron-bound, summary means of raising the money through revenue bonds of the city to be issued in anticipation of taxation. It is needless to say that gentlemen of your character would not intentionally do any act to extend your terms for a day, or add to your emoluments to the extent of a dollar You can understand, however, that less ele vated and more dependent employees, who expect to profit through their lives by your tenure of office, may not be actuated by the same high motives. Does not the extreme probability of an interested alliance in your own official household, for this desperate propagation of unscrupulous misrepresentation on this momentous issue, strengthen the force of the demand that you should speak in authoritative terms, and broadly light the way for the people as to your intended adminis-

tration and its consequences ! The Herald says, further, that the people are not to vote upon the question of an underground railroad. Let us see how that question stands. The act of 1894, from which you derive your official life, requires that when the consents of the local authorities and the property owners are obtained, you "shall proceed to prepare detailed plans and specifications for the construction of such rapid transit railway or railways, including all devices and appurtenances deemed necessary to secure the greatest efficiency to public convenience and safety, including plans and specifications and other suitable appliances incidental and requisite to what you may approve as the best and most efficient system of rapid tran- the right. It violates, also, the provision of borrowing capacity of the city, which it can- sit, in view of the public needs and require-

not exceed except for water supply, at ten | menta," In compliance with this imperative requirement, and appropriating existing consents at the threshold of your labors, you have decided in favor of the underground plan, approved and adopted by your predecessors. Some confusion exists in the law, arising from the voting requirement being inserted at the last moment which results in a seeming contemplation that you should again consider the plans of your predecessors and adopt them or modify them after the affirmative voting. You having, however, under the obligations of your oath of office, adopted, by a resolution without a dissenting voice or vote, the system of an underground railroad, must not that result be taken as the one fixed fact of your known deliberations? Or must it be considered as a covert and deliberate deception ! If you continue to stand silent, and allow these partisan representatives to speak for you, is there not danger that you will eventually be made to occupy a position, not alone of a flagrant neglect of plain duty, but one involving an inconsistency bordering on the ridiculous ?

We stand for a higher grade of journalism than has been exhibited thus fay in treating this great question. The people are entitled to be addressed in the press in partially upon this and every other subject in which their interests, great and small, are involved. Concealment of essential elements of fact, and important consequences, entering into a decision of the Issue in a spirit of unscrupulous partisanship, is not fulfilling the high mission of a free press. The design in some quarters would appear to be to prevail on the people to vote in favor of the scheme, by hook or by crook; and then on the faith of that vote, they are to be thereafter dumb and incapable, like sheep before their shearers, when further legislation will be obtained to help the scheme and hurt the people. The Herald, with cavalier and airy impatience at the inquiry of the people for information, says further: "Constitutional objections are also urged against the proposed municipal rapid transit, but they are without force."

What potentiality of judicial judgment! This is of a part with the play of the eminent gentlemen who are your legal advisers. When we treated the legal questions at length, as we thought their importance to our readers demanded, in the review and argument of Mr. SWEENY, who, we know, is not in the interest of the elevated railroads. we selected four prominent gentlemen from different departments of the law and practical experience to give us, in the public interest, their deliberate judgment on the points and arguments which had been presented. These gentlemen were ex-Chief Justice Davis, who has been on the bench of the Supreme Court for more than a quarter of a century, adjudicating with high ability and influence the great legal controversies of his period, and still in the full vigor of his powers one of the most valued and constantly employed counsel in cases of magnitude at the New York ber; also, HENRY H. ANDERSON, Esq., so eminent in his profession and so long relied on by great corporations as an adviser on important affairs; with Judge Dillox, having a national reputation as an able lawyer of the largest experience; and the Hon. CHAUNCEY M. DEPEW, who, educated to the law and thoroughly grounded in its principles, although for some years following other pursuits, possesses, as all will agree, a comprehensive ability and legal experience entitling his opinion to the highest weight.

These gentlemen have all agreed upon the

unconstitutionality of the act under which you were appointed. We believe we are justified in saying that the unanimous conclusion of these gentlemen is the general sense of the legal profession. Mr. Ax-DERSON also arraigned that barbarous provision of the act, which allows the Board to take possession of the land required when the Commissioners for it at leisure, perhaps years afterward. as a violation of the provision of the Constiwhen the land is taken from its owner, is not, in any possible sense, just compensation. This manner of "taking" property is too much in the old and generally condemned style of Ron Roy. But your legal advisers have imitated your example, and, disdained to make any reply, for public consideration, upon these questions except to say that they had answered the objections when the bill was before the Governor for his action, and there was nothing in them. We suppose the arduous character of their efforts before the Governor had so fatigued them that they were not equal to the exertion of replying now; or that their high standing in the profession entitles them to treat the views of Messrs DAVIS. DILLON, DEPEW, and ANDERSON as beneath their attention. We are not aware that either of the gentlemen, whom you have signalized by your official favor. ever figured prominently in so great a case or in any great case before. And if they had any views on these novel and important questions, they should have rejoiced, with a strong impulse, to have the opportunity to be introduced to so great a clientage as those interested, for a hearing. The respon sibility in this matter, however, is upon you. gentlemen, and not on them. Your operabouffe legal luminaries may be allowed to wag their ponderous heads on the stage of your unenlightening operations, with continued tongue-tied disdain. It is of a part of your pantomimic show, and in a certain philosophical way entertaining; although probably, too costly in the general result to the public.

Some of the legal objections so summarily brushed aside may be concisely stated as follows: The act under which you de rive your authority is a local act, inasmuch as it is confined wholly to the city of New York, by description as absolutely so as if it were restricted to cities through which the Harlem River runs, and was necessarily so limited to meet influential opposition to its more extensive application. It never applied and cannot now be made to apply to any other city. Being a local act, it violates a very important provision of the Constitution and introduces an exceedingly dangerous precedent. The Constitution requires general laws in such cases to be necessarily of general application. Have you any doubt that the act applies wholly to the city of New York ! We would like to know your mental and moral convictions on that question. All the talk about "a class" of cities in this affair is a flimsy and contemptible pretence. Who ever heard of a "class" of one, except in a haby kindergarten ! Next, the act violates the Constitution in providing that the credit of the city is to be loaned and the city made responsible for an undertaking "in aid of" the individual or corporation on whom you shall by your gracious grant confer

from incurring any indebtedness except for municipal purposes. It is not a municipal purpose to run in debt for the construction of a railroad, for the benefit of the person or be operated for his or their pecuniary benefit, in competition with others in the same line of business. Again, the Legislature is prohibited from granting to any corporation or individual the right to lay railroad tracks or "granting to any corporation or individual any exclusive privilege, immunity, or franchise whatever;" and yet they have authorized you to do this very thing through its authority and by your own untrammelled despotic will. Finally, you are named in the bill, in fact appointed by the Legislature, to perform the important acts devolved on you in open vio-lation of the principle of home rule provided for in the Constitution. You do not require to be told that authority conferred by an unconstitutional act is as null and void as a power attempted to be exercised by an agent in express disregard of the restrictions known to be imposed by his principal. You must as men of superior intelligence,

after the elaborate presentation that has taken place, have reached a responsible judgment on these points. If you have, how can you conscient lonsly proceed under a legislative authority which violates the fundamental law ! If you have not reached a de cision in that respect, the people are entitled to know it, and the reasons for it. If you have doubts, there are lawyers capable of solving them. Can you upon this matter, involving so many millions and such great interests of the people, afford to stand mute. enveloped in majestic sphinx-like silence, on all these issues? We think you cannot, and we will therefore continue with all due respect, to demand your message to the people on the questions which have arisen on your assumption of the office of Rapid Transit Commissioners. As supposed superior public functionaries on whom so much depends, you should have the courage of your convictions, regardless of consequences, and with the promptitude required from your eminence be able to speak in no uncertain tones.

### How the Dutch May Recover Holland.

It is well known that Holland once comprised a much larger area of dry land than only managed to save the remnant by an elaborate dike system, but have gradually reclaimed considerable sections of what was lost, the amount already recovered being no less than 350 square miles. Now they propose to gain some 750 square miles more by the reclamation of a large part of the Zuider Zee. An association formed for that purpose has submitted its plans to a royal Commission, and an outline of the latter's report has been lately published.

At the beginning of our era and for many centuries afterward the area now comprehended in the Zuider Zee was covered by a tract of forest country, enclosing an expanse of fresh water named Lake Flevo. A series of inundations beginning in 1170 and ending in 1305 resulted in the permanent submergence of this region, yet even now the ships that sail over the drowned forests occasionally get their anchors inextricably caught in the tangled roots of the buried trees. Many of the towns that sprang up on the coasts of the newly made Zuider Zee became in process of time thriving scaports. Stavoren, for instance, which now has but 100 houses, ranked as one of the principal Hanse towns in the sixteenth century: Enkhuigen, which at pres ent has but 5,000, once had 60,000 inhabitants, and Hoorn, the population of which has shrunk to 10,000, formerly had fleets on every sea and warehouses throughout the Indies. The gradually increasing disuse of the Zuider Zee as an outlet for commerce has been due partly to the obstructions to navigation offered by the shifting shoals and sand banks, but mainly to the transfer of the trade of Amsterdam to the North Holland Canal and V Ship Canal which connect the Dutch commercial capital with the German Ocean.

tion will be to convert a large part of the Zuider Zee into a fresh water lake, by means of a colossal sea wall or dike running from North Holland to Friesland, completely shutting out the tides of the North Sea This embankment will be 216 feet wide at the base, and its top will be more than 17 feet above the level of the sea at Amster dam. Somewhat below the summit on the inner side will be laid a track wide enough for a wagon road and railway. The sea once barred out, the next move will be to enclose within separate embankments four different areas, containing in the aggregate 750 square miles. The four polders, as lands redeemed in this way are called, will be not filled up, but emptied by pumping the water up to successively higher levels until it finds a passage by the main channel to the sea. As the shallower portions are exposed, they will be progressively brought under cultivation, and it is calculated that within ten years from the begin ning of the work 25,000 acres can be made annually available. To avoid too heavy a drain on the national resources, the whole labor of reclamation is to be spread over a term of thirty-three years. In the end, the Zuider Zee will be reduced to a central channel of about fifteen miles in breadth. called the Ysselmeer, communicating, first, with the sea by locks at Wieringen; secondly with Amsterdam by a branch three miles in width, and lastly, with the mouth of the Yssel by a similar but shorter arm. One effect of this great work will be to leave many of the existing seaports high and dry. but, as we have said, their commerce has long been in a declining condition, and the remnant of it is not worth preserving.

# The Ameer of Cabul.

Telegrams from Calcutta report that the Ameer of Cabul is dead, and that a Viceregal Council had previously been summoned at Simla. Gen. ROBERTS has been interviewed in London, and he is of opinion that the death of the Ameer will give rise to serious trouble in Cabul. The situation is certainly alarming, because for the first time, the terrible massacre of 1842, English ladies are resident in that Afghan capital, which is so environed in its history with terrible tales of massacre and bloodshed. The English settlement in Cabul at the present time consists of about a dozen persons, four of whom are English ladies. This little company is entirely at the mercy of a city, which on Jan. 13, 1842, massacred the British Embassy, and completely annihilated the British garrison, only one man, Dr. BRYDEN, living to tell the tale. The Afghans imprisoned the women of the garrison as hostages; and again, on Sept. 3, 1879, they killed Sir LOUIS CAVAGNARI and his entire escort.

The city of Cabul is about 190 miles from the British frontier, and the entire country

very slight allegiance to either the British Government or the ruler of Afghanistab. It is a curious coincidence that ABDUR RAH-MAN, the Ameer, suffered from the same corporation to whom you shall give the contract and franchise for the railroad, to his death his own political party will be divided, some favoring the succession of his eldest son, HARIBULLA, others supporting the child of a younger wife of royal lineage. There are, however, other factions. The party of the ex-Ameer. YAKOON KHAN, who is now a State prisoner in India, is a very strong one, and will undoubtedly make strenuous efforts for the restoration of the Prince, who has always occupied a large place in the affections of the Afghan people. YAROOR KHAN has never been held responsible by the British Government for the massacre of CAVAGNAIII's embassy, and should the people of Cabul demand his restoration, the British Government would probably raise no opposition. He is a great favorite with British officers in India, and his long imprisonment by his father has awakened a degree of sympathy and interest which has become intensified rather than lessened by his subsequent misfortunes and exile. He is only 44 years of age, and is admitted to be a man of considerable ability. Another claimant to the throne is ISHAK KHAN, who is now the guest of the Russian Government. He is the son of the late Ameer AZIM KHAN by his Armenian Christian wife. Another claimant will appear in the person of AYOOB KHAN, a younger son of the late Ameer SHERE ALI KHAN, who brought about the defeat of Gen. Bunnows at Maiwand, in Candahar, and whose consummate generalship evoked the admiration of even the

British army at the time of its defeat. Taking all the circumstances of the position of Afghanistan into consideration, it would seem probable that an effort will be made by the Government of India to place YAKOOS KHAN upon the throne. At all events, the attitude of Russia with reference to China will suggest the importance of putting a strong man in that place, YAKOOB KHAN is a General of proved ability: he consolidated the rule of the Afghans over Herat and Ferral: he restrained the Persians from advancing on the Afghan frontier on several occasions; and it was he who seized the city of Cabul, and placed his father upon the throne.

The debt which Ameer SHERE ALI KHA owed to his brave son was repaid with t does now, and that the Dutch have not the blackest ingratitude. YAKOOB KHAN was imprisoned for five years in a horrible dungeon, and treated with the greatest cruelty, and he was only released upon the advance of the British army into Afghan territory in 1878. His cruel incarceration had affected his con stitution, both physical and mental, and it was therefore not surprising when, on Sept. 3, 1879, three regiments broke out in open mutiny at Cabul, and attacked the Britisl Residency, that YAKOOB KHAN felt himself unequal to the task of delending i., Sir LOUIS CAVAGNARI, Lient. HAMILTON, Mr. JENKYNS, and Dr. KELLY, with their native escorts, were slain, but YAKOOB KHAN, al though he was brought to India as a dethroned prince, has never lost the respect of the British Government.

#### Is the President for or Against Hill and Democracy?

Secretary LAMONT is a Democrat. His occasional appearances in New York and his friendly utterances respecting our State ticket are interesting and useful; but the Democracy of the Empire State has the right to exact something more from the CLEVELAND Administration.

Secretary Cartiste is a Democrat. If he should come on and take the stump for the Democratic State ticket, he would be welcomed with enthusiasm as a most valuable recruit in a time of difficulty and peril. Yet the Democracy of New York has the right to expect more than that from the CLEVE-LAND Administration.

Ambassador BAYARD is a Democrat. His presence here in New York at Senator Hill. right hand, in the hour of Democracy's danger, would be auspiciously significant. But it would not be enough, so far as the CLEVELAND Administration is concerned.

If the entire Cabinet of Mr. CLEVELAND, with the exception of Secretary GRESHAM. who is not a Democrat and is not wanted. should enter into this canvass with all the energy that is in them; if CARLISLE and LAMONT, and OLNEY and BISSELL, and HER-BERT and HOKE SMITH and MORTON should range themselves behind DAVID B. HILL, now that he stands for the interests of the whole party in the whole Union; if EUSTIS should be summoned by cable from Paris and RUNYON from Berlin and MACVEAGH from Rome, to help avert a possible disaster to the National Democracy; if the great power and influence of the Federal officeholders in this State should be thrown into the balance, by direct orders from Washington, the whole duty of the CLEVELAND Administration to the Democracy of New York would still be unperformed. Something more is necessary.

That something is a plain, unequivocal, personal statement from Mr. CLEVELAND himself. It has been delayed too long. It cannot come too soon. In every part of the State citizens who are CLEVELAND men first and Democrats afterward, if Democrats at all, are encouraged to indifference or to open hostility by the silence of the President. Call it apathy, call it lethargy, call it deliberate treachery, the attitude of the official chieftain of the Democratic party is the mainstay of Republican hopes. Remove that and the principal element of danger in the situation goes. Mr. CLEVELAND alone can do it. He can do it with ten well-chosen words. The election is eighteen days away.

An interesting piece of news brought back by the Behring Sea patrol fleet has been that the reindeer at Port Clarence are multiplying so rapidly that the Government will in a few years be relieved from the necessity of sending food to the natives there. At Ounalaska the cannot be introduced, as they perish through falling down steep ravines. The plan of domesticating these animals in

Alaska was originated, we believe, by Dr. Sum. pox Jackson, the General Agent of Education for that Territory. He bought sixteen reinde on the eastern coast of Siberia, which he paid for in guns, ammunition, cloth, and tobacco, and sent them to Amakuk and Ounslasks. His efforts attracted the attention of Congress, and were supported by an appropriation. With this he was able to purchase 180 more reindeer, and to obtain also two Siberian herders for the Port Clarence corral. Capt. HEALY of the revenue the right. It violates, also, the provision of between the cities of Peshawur and Cabul is cutter Bear reported very favorably upon the Constitution which prohibits any city controlled by warlike tribes who owe but the scheme, and urged its encouragement. On

one occasion he found the natives of King's Island starving, and with the aid of a pure made up on his vessel he was able to procure provisions 200 uniles away, at St. Michael's, but was more than ever convinced of the value of the domestication of deer. In a subsequent report he showed that there was no obstacle to the experiment, and said that "the deer when once landed on our side grow more vigorously and thrive better than in Hiberia." This was proved by their multiplication in Alaska during a win-

ter when they were dying in Siberia. The reindoer is to the people of the Arctic regions the most valuable of all animals. It furnishes them with food, clothing, and transportation. To Alaska the question of food supply is particularly important, as the pursuit whites of the whale, the walrus, and the seal has caused their rapid diminution, while the capping industries of Alaska have limited the supply of salmon for the natives, which used to be abundant. The caribou and deer are also diminishing. It is interesting, therefore, to learn that this new source of sustenance, comfort, and wealth has been successfully opened for the natives of Alaska.

What a crowd of Reformers there is here in these days, just before election!

It is a bad time for Venezuela to get into quarrel with England. The able President of the republic, Gen. CHESPO, is in a peck of with rebels and mutineers and conspirators and rival politicians. His life is endangered daily by his enemies, his power is but weakness, and his Presidency is not worth half the money it cost him. There are English menof-war near the Orinoco, and English troops over the eastern frontier of his country. He cannot afford to quarrel with England, not even f she steels the Venezuelan gold fields. "To be weak is miserable," said Mr. John Mil. Ton is

Our London weekly contemporary, All the Year Round, possesses a poetical instinct. It commends to popular favor some of the lines of Caleb Quotem:"

With a-men, gay men, rum quotem, factotum, Khimrry-chimery, liquorice-stickorice, Chizzle tomb, frizzle comb."

We acknowledge the meritorious subtlety of this piece. There is yet another poem, which was once a favorite, but which has been knocked out, perhaps by RUDYARD KIPLING, about a certain king who started out to get some fun. and whose name was

" Hokey Pokey Pinker Wang Flipperty Flapperty Musty Bang Hungry Chungry Wungry Wang. Chorus—The King of the Cannibal Islands.

There are versions of this royal poem revise and improved from the original text, but we have no choice between them. The Hokey-Poke work will be regarded by most modern poets as superior to the old shimery-chimery stuff of the author of "The Wags of Windsor."

#### THE REGISTRY.

The Plain Facts of the Case-Make You Own Deduction. The first day's registry in 1894 compared with th first day's registry in 1802 showed an increase of 10

000. The second day's registry in 1894, compares with the second day's registry in 1892, showed a decrease of 10,000. The two days collectively show these results: These are, in detail, the decreases or increases by Assembly districts:

The only district below Fourteenth street in which there is an increase in the registry figures this year (for two days) compared with 1892 is the Ninth. All the Assembly districts wholly or chiefly between street and Pifty-ninth street show de creases, with the exception of the Seventeenth and Eighteeuth, where the gain is insignificant-55 voter

in one and 123 voters in the other.

The three Riverside districts, in the territory west of Central Park, show these increases: Nine 414; Twenty-third, 1,664, and Twenty-eighth, 689.

Have Republicans Nominated Wheeler! To THE POITOR OF THE BUS-Sir: As I was walking down Salina street of this city, I strolled into the Republican County Committee rooms to read the evening papers. While there, I noticed that nearly every one who came in was invited to sign a certain paper, and being curious to learn what it was all about. It wasked up behind one of the signers and looked over his shoulder. It was a petition for the nomination of Everett P. Wheeler, and the person signing had headed it "Brooklyn," instead of "Syracuse." Thinking that it might be of interest to the public to understand how these petitions are being secured, I have taken the liberty to write this letter.

have taken the liberty to write this letter. It looks to me as though there were some crooks work being done. If Mr. Sugar Trust Shepard woul only give out a statement of how much of Levi P.'s "barret" he is allowed to appropriate for his ewn private benefit, it might prove interesting reading. There is no doubt that the same scheme is being worked throughout the whole State. I would like to read the opinion of THE SUS upon this subject. Synacuse, N. Y., Oct. 17.

# Calls from the Administration Camp.

To the Editor of The Sex-Sir: I feel, that albeit have always been a Cleveland man and opp have always been a Cleveland man and opposed to Senator Hill. I can no longer afford to occupy such a position. There is an old maxim which truthfully says "Actions speak louder than words." Hill was true to the President in '92, and deserves his support now. The people are as quick in their interpretations of conduct as they are in their apprehension of language and Mr. Cleveland's conduct is costing him not only New Your, Oct. 17. NEW YORK, Oct. 17.

#### A Bet on the Election. To the Epiron of The Sex-Sie: Will you kindly

decide the following bet: Meek Lamb beta Hair Splitter that if the Committee of Seventy neminates Strong and Goff for Mayor and Recorder respectively, and they are endorsed by the Recorder respectively. And they are endorsed by the Republicans, they will be elected. Hair Splitter says they will not.

Hair Splitter claims that if Strong and Goff, after being nominated as above, should refuse to run, he would win the bet. Seek Lamb claims that, naturally, they must run for the above offices to be elected, and if they don't, then the bet is off.

In explanation I would also say that Hair Splitter's contention was only made after the bet was sixued.

As Mesers, strong and Goff have both signified their intention to accept the nomination. H. S. a strictures no longer apply, but, anyhow, we would like your decision for future reference.

MAY G. Lerking.

NEW YORK, Get. 13, 1894.

Meek Lamb would have been obliged, like Hall

Splitter, to abide the result after the last condition of the bet had been fulfilled. That last condition was the Republican endorsement, so if Goff and Strong had refused to run friend Hair Splitter would have

taken lieck Lamb's money. Meek is too fresh to bet much, it appears. Not finited With the Stamps To the Entroic or The Sca-Sir: Oh Sca, which shines for all, cave us from these new two-cent stamps. Right royally did you battle against the stamps stamps noted by the property of the stamps are niced green once of yore—ad your readers to get rid of three now things. Where does the Bureau of Engraving and Printing get in a size, where its mustings for is its where its colors? where its mustings for is its leastes with the stamps of the stamps with the stamps of the stamps with the stamps of the stamps

mustic? But aeriemsty, why cannot we have a well-engraved two-cont stamp? Wity not use a good likeness, the athenseum, or any other pertrait of Washington? A discourage Reares. But

# The Sun in Nebranka.

From the Heatings Tribune.
Tax &cx is the greatest newspaper in this country rial ability. There is no subject one may not be informed upon by reading the editorial page

From the St. Louis (Bloke Benneral).

There is no law requiring Cleveland to say anything for Hill. of course, but his silence in that respect will be generally interpreted as a piece of charitabness.

Not Hitting. From the Cincinnati Tribune | hear that you were missing all day Saturday.\*
Missing? | was not hunting.\*
You, that a what I heard.

## SWIEL BEAMS.

"Entables and Drinkables" is the sign displayed on the front of an old house in Raverbill, Mass.

—Is the schoolmaster absent from Portland, State of
Maine? If not he ought to give a few points to the Board of Education in that town on modern English The public notices relative to the opening of the even-ing schools specify the "Gents' Entrances" to the school buildings. "Gents!" And in "cultured" New England! Still, that is where they make "Plymout

Rock pants."

"I met the other day a man so much keener and — I met he other day a man so much keener and more settle and more energetic than myself," said a man "that at I walked along the street away from his office I found myself smiting and elabed; I had actually been exhibitated by contact with him. To meet him had been a positive attenuiant; it was evidence enough of the benefits to be derived from stirring around among men."

—In apite of all the periods of hard times that have existed this country to the less that exceptive absence of the country of the less that exceptive absence of the country of the less that exceptive absence of the country of the less that exceptive absence of the country of the less that exceptive absence of the country of the less that exceptive absence of the country of the less that exceptive absence of the country of the less that exception are the country of the less that exception are the country of the less that exception are the country of the less that except the country of the less that except the country of the less than the country

visited this country in the last half century, a clergy-man living in a border State said the other day: "There never was in my congregation at any time for the last forty years more than one or two families that needed material aid, and in all that time I have heard of little or no actual pinching poverty any-where in the community."

-The manager of a rural shirt factory will not

when it his employment long a girl who cannot earn more than \$5 a week. "Our machinery is run by steam," said he, "and the girl who with a few weeks" experience cannot earn more than \$5 or \$6 a week in an actual loss to us. She is not working up to the capacity of the machinery, and we are actually losing money by her presence in the factory."

The managing cover of Treater Falls has suffered.

money by her presence is the factory."

—The romantic gorge of Trenton Falls has suffered a great injury, from the acenic point of view, in the quarrying of limestone at the brink of the cliffs and the easting of the débris, thousands of tons of rock, into the ravine. An old resident of the neighborhood declares, however, that the spring freshets, overying a hody of water twenty or thirty feet deep, sweep against these leaves of terries stone and force them that the

body of water twenty or thirty feet deep, sweep against these dams of broken stone and force them into the plain below, grinding them into small pieces.

—A remarkable sight to be seen mearly any day at this season in the waters about Eastport, Me., is the rush of shoals of policek. The fish is not greatly prized, locally or elsewhere, but none of his size makes a bigger commotion. When a colony of shrimpe starts seaward, or a quantity of refuse from the "sardine," canneries at Lubec comes down on the tide, the water fairly boils with the rushing and leaping of the policek. At a distance it looks as though the surface of the sea were beaten by hall or heavy rain.

—One sees in the waters of the lower Chesapeaks

One sees in the waters of the lower Chesapeaks
little groups of siender piles, set close and rising per
haps six feet above the surface. These are called
hurdles, and it is here that the shoopsheed are oneght. The hurdles are often of eassafras. This wood is pe-culiarly favorable to the growth of the barnacle, upon which the fish feed, and perhaps there is something in the wood that attracts them. At any rate, fishermose often wrap their hooks with the plant inner bark of the assasfras for the purpose of insuring good inst.

—The city of St. John, N. B., a place of nearty 50,000

people, has been without any means of public trans-portation for several weeks. The trolley tracks are all being relaid, and instead of doing the job street by street, allowing the cars to run in some quarters of the city, all the traffic has been suspended and the changes proceed with a deliberation that Americans would find irritating. But the people have acquired strong legs through elimbing up and down their hills, and the cessation of passenger traffic seems to cause up general inconventence.

Scanbore gunners hold that the wild goose can

count two, but not three. Accordingly it is customary in preparing to shoot wild greese from a blind or some detached ribbon of marsh for three men to row over to the station together and for two of them to return to the station together and for two of them to return to the maintand. The geese, being unable to count above two, believe when they see the two men returning that no enemy has been left upon the marsh, and approach the spot without fear. It is asserted that if only two men go out and only one returns the geese will carefully avoid the region of the bilind.

—'It has seemed somewhat strange to me," said a man. "that one never sees on the bilis of fare of the Brondway hotels eels' livers. It is not surprising that they are not to be found in the ordinary restaurant, but they make such an excellent dish that I wonder

but they make such an excellent dish that I wonder places catering to the gourmet do not list them. On the cast side one sees plenty of cels, and it may be the tentzens there utilize the livers, but I have never seen the dish in a New York restaurant. It is a very rich edible and dangerous to weak digestions. It is eaten in some of the upper districts of this State." -There are three things that attract the notice of

There are three things that attract the notice of a traveller from the States when he has got into Canada, to say nothing of the general dulness that pervades that province. One is the disappearance of window blinds and bareness of the house froms. The other is the presence of militiamen and pottoeness, who are as nearly copies as may be of the English militia and London "bobbles." The third is the impossibility of rating your shoes blacked except possibility of getting your shoes blacked, except in the wash rooms at the hotels. One pays ten cents for a shine, and a New York artist who did his work so shabbily would be made to do it over again.

—The Captain of a steamer that piles along the New

England coast, and that was passing one of the rugged, lonely islands off the Maine shore, pointed to an enormous flock of gulls that whitened the rocks, the surface of the sea, and the branches of the cedars that cling to the hard soil. "There," said he, "what do you think of that? And yet if you turn to a book on natural history they'll tell you that guils won't perch on trees. Some fool sailors believe that the petrels, or Mother Carey's chickens, never alight, even on the water, but are always on the wing. They don't use their eyes. And some of these scientific fellows are as bad as the sallors."

# Foreign Notes of Real Interest.

A new string sextet, by a boy of sixteen named Bernhard Köhler, recently created an extraordinary semation at Cologne.

Some one has stolen the cross creeted by order of Queen Victoria on the spot where the Prince Imperial

was killed by the Eulus. At Suva, in the Fiji Islands, the corner stone of a Roman Catholic cathedral has just been laid. It is to be built of stone and dedicated to St. Paul.

Foreign commercial travellers in Russia, besides pay-ing a tax, must henceforth be provided with properly attested papers of identification; their passports must state the limit of time of their permission to travel in the empire, and must distinctly tell the religious p feasion of the traveller. ession of the traveller.

Lieut Guyot of the French army, who recently rode

on a bicycle to Constantinople and back, had a hard experience in Turkey, where he was only able to make thirty miles in three days. In that time he had nothing to eat but four hard boiled eggs with vinegar, and muddy water with a little raki to drink. The natives insisted on getting upon his machine, and he had great trouble with the dogs. In Bulgaria there were to roads at all, though some were pegged out, and the d, yet he was seventy-three days on the way.

At Athens the Greek Government has recently de-clared the whole region tying between the Theselon and the monument of Lysicrates archaeological ground, thereby compelling the proprietors to self at prices to be fixed by a commission of sworn experts. It is be-lieved that the American and German schools and the Archaeological Society of Athens can early rates the rehmological Society of Athens can easily raise the funds needed to buy it up. The latter society, in its excavations at Epidauros, has brought to light the stadium, which is apparently intact. On staking trenches across the area to a depth of five yards or trences across the area to a depth of five yards or more, the rows of marble chairs, each with its inscription, which ran completely around the stadium, were found in their proper places. It will be the first Greek stadium yet known in He original state.

An appeal for help has recently been made by the Bodleian Library at Oxford, which is the largest university library in the world, and is surpassed by only five national libraries, the Bibliothèque Nationale at Paris, the Nitth November 100 and 1

Paris, the British Museum, the Imperial Library at Br Peteraburg, and the royal libraries at Munich and rits. It receives for all purposes \$45,000 a year and needs money to support its staff; to prepare its catalogue, which is now years behind the times; to heat the portrait gallery; to repair the building, the fluest public edifice of the time of James I., and to provide shelves for books in the Ashmolean Museum, which has just been put at its disposal. The Bodielan contains over half a million volumes, the separati littles in the catalogue amounting to a million and a half; the new accessions of books and pamphlets are nearly 60,000 a year; it has the accord largest number matic collection in the British empire. Books and coins are declared by the librarian to be in a state of chans owing to the lack of funds; the library needs a least \$75,000 to be kept efficient, and he calls on the public for assistance, as Oxford, owing to the agricul tural depression, is too poor to support its own library

Prince George William, Earl of Armagh, aldest son of the Duke of Cumberland, who, but for the events of 1866, would now be king of Hanover, is about to en-ter the Virythum High School for sons of noblemen at Dreaden in order to receive a thorough German training. The Katser and the links have agreed that on the death of Prince Athert of Prassis, the present Regent of Brunswick, the roung Prince shall become Duke of Brunswick. On the death of the last Duke of Brunswick, in 1884, the Lunsburg branch, the older ins of the Guelphs, became extinct. The succession then went to the younger line, the branch ruiting in England, of which the oldest representative in male de-scent is the Duke of Cumberland, the son of the disposseased king of Hanover. As he refused to acknowledge the legality of the stops by which his family was turned out of Hanover. he could not be permitted to tirried out or master, and in consequence a Robertsoilers prince was elected Regent for life of the ducky. This present agreement, taken with the acceptance two years ago by the Duke of Cumberland of the "Gueigh fund," the \$12,000,000 put aside by probably puts an end to the 'Hanaverian quee'
'In German polition Promis so an indeposition